IN THE CLAIMS

The following claims replace all prior claims in the application:

1. (*Currently amended*) A method for controlling the transcription of target genes by genetic computing, the method comprising:

identifying ~~at least one~~ a plurality of logic functions, each logic function having an output corresponding to a ~~desired target~~ different gene output signal;

selecting at least one logic function corresponding to a desired target gene output signal; and

implementing the at least one logic function by producing interactions among a plurality of regulatory proteins and interactive binding of two or more regulatory proteins at corresponding binding sites of the target genes, wherein the target genes each comprise one or more cis-regulatory ~~sequences~~ regions having individual DNA binding sites, and wherein each binding site has a binding strength and a binding location which are adjustable by varying composition of the one or more cis-regulatory ~~sequences~~ regions;

wherein the interactions comprise contact interactions and long-distance interactions that avoid interference between the DNA binding sites.

2. (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more cis-regulatory ~~region is~~ regions are modular.

3. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one logic function is selected from the group consisting of: OR, AND, NAND, XOR and EQ.

4. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the interactions among the regulatory proteins comprise non-specific protein-protein interactions controlled by selecting the binding locations.

5. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the interactions among the regulatory proteins comprise specific protein-protein interactions.

6. (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the interactions among the regulatory proteins comprise ~~effective~~ protein-protein interactions mediated by collaborative competition between the regulatory proteins and a ~~generic~~ glue-like DNA-bound protein or protein complex.

7. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the interactive binding comprises tunable-specific protein-DNA interactions which are tunable by selecting the binding strengths.

8. (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more cis-regulatory ~~region includes~~ regions include long distance repression and activation schemes.

9. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, further comprising, after the step of identifying the at least one logic function:

reducing the at least one logic function to a minimal conjunctive normal form; and

implementing a first clause as an activation clause and all remaining clauses as repression clauses; wherein the relative binding strength is selected so that repression dominates activation.

10. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, further comprising, after the step of identifying the at least one logic function:

reducing the at least one logic function to a minimal disjunctive normal form; and

implementing a first clause as a repression clause and all remaining clauses as activation clauses.

11. (*Currently amended*) A method for genetic computing using combinatorial transcription control for controlling gene expression, the method comprising:

identifying ~~at least one~~ a plurality of logic functions, each logic function having an output corresponding to a ~~desired~~ different gene expression;

selecting at least one logic function corresponding to a desired gene expression; and

implementing the at least one logic function by producing interactions among a plurality of transcription factors and interactive binding of two or more transcription factors at corresponding binding sites of one or more target genes, wherein the target genes each comprise one or more cis-regulatory regions having individual DNA binding sites, and wherein each binding site has a binding strength and a binding location which are adjustable by varying composition of the one or more cis-regulatory ~~sequences~~ regions.

12. (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 11, wherein the one or more cis-regulatory ~~region is~~ regions are modular.

13. (*Original*) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one logic function is selected from the group consisting of: OR, AND, NAND, XOR and EQ.

14. (*Original*) The method of claim 11, wherein at least some of the interactions among the transcription factors comprise non-specific protein-protein interactions controlled by selecting the binding locations.

15. (*Original*) The method of claim 11, wherein at least some of the interactions among the transcription factors comprise specific protein-protein interactions.

16. (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 11, wherein at least some of the interactions among the transcription factors comprise ~~effective~~ protein-protein interactions mediated by collaborative competition between the transcription factors and a ~~generic~~ glue-like DNA-bound protein or protein complex.

17. (*Original*) The method of claim 11, wherein the interactive binding comprises tunable-specific protein-DNA interactions which are tunable by selecting the binding strengths.

18. (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 11, wherein the cis-regulatory region includes ~~a~~ long distance repression and activation schemes that avoid interference between the DNA binding sites.

19. (*Original*) The method of claim 11, further comprising, after the step of identifying the at least one logic function: reducing the at least one logic function to a minimal conjunctive normal form; and implementing a first clause as an activation clause and all remaining clauses as repression clauses; wherein the binding strength is selected so that repression dominates activation.

20. (*Original*) The method of claim 11, further comprising, after the step of identifying the at least one logic function:

reducing the at least one logic function to a minimal disjunctive normal form; and

implementing a first clause as a repression clause and all remaining clauses as activation clauses.

21. (*Currently amended*) A method of genetic computing by encoding control functions in regulatory DNA sequences for controlling gene expression, the method comprising:

selecting a relative binding strength and a relative binding position of individual binding sites within a cis-regulatory region of ~~the~~ one or more regulatory DNA ~~sequence~~ sequences to exert combinatorial control of gene expression to operate as at least one logic function selected from a plurality of different logic functions for generating an output ~~upon binding~~ corresponding to a

desired gene expression upon binding of two or more regulatory proteins, wherein each different logic function corresponds to a different gene expression.

22. (*Original*) The method of claim 21, wherein the control functions are modular.

23. (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 21, wherein the relative binding strengths and relative binding sites within the cis-regulatory region are selected to produce tunable specific DNA-protein ~~interaction~~ interactions and non-specific, glue-like protein-protein ~~interaction~~ interactions.

24. (*Original*) The method of claim 23, further comprising selecting the relative binding strengths and relative binding sites to permit distal activation and repression.